

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 10581 211752Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 EB-07

CCO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02

OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 USSS-00 DHA-02 /117 W

----- 119632

Z R 211706Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7418

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPEC, ASEC, AU

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC

SITREP 2

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1. AUSTRIAN RADIO AT 1600 HOURS LOCAL CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH INTERIOR MINISTER ROESCH WHO SAID IN SUBSTANCE: THREE PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED, TWO OF THEM AUSTRIAN CRIMINAL POLICEMEN AND IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER THE THIRD IS A TERRORIST OR OPEC EMPLOYEE. A POLICEMAN, A TERRORIST AND A KUWAITI OFFICIAL ARE IN HOSPITAL BUT NONE OF THREE CRITICALLY INJURED. GOA NOW TRANSLATING AND WILL RELEASE A SIX AND HALF PAGE FRENCH LANGUAGE STATEMENT OF TERRORISTS WHICH IS A DECLARATION ON ARAB POLITICS; STATEMENT ITSELF PRESENTS NO DEMANDS. ROESCH SAID "REPRESENTATIVES OF OPEC COUNTRIES" HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CONFER AT INTERIOR MINISTRY. CHANCELLOR KREISKY EN ROUTE BACK TO VIENNA FROM HOLIDAY IN LECH, WHERE HE HAD JUST ARRIVED TODAY. TERRORISTS REQUESTED THAT LIBYAN AMBASSADOR SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY BUT HE IS IN PRAGUE AND EFFORTS UNDERWAY THROUGH CZECH EMBASSY TO REQUEST HIS RETURN TO VIENNA. NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT RPT NOT NOW UNDERWAY WITH TERRORISTS. GOA NOW AWAITING RESULTS OF TALKS WITH REPS OF OPEC COUNTRIES BEFORE DECIDING ON FURTHER ACTION. ROESCH GAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOA HAS DIRECT CONTACT WITH OPEC HEADQUARTERS, BUT DID NOT SAY HOW. IT APPEARS THAT TERRORISTS ARE AN ARAB GROUP. ACCORDING AUSTRIAN RADIO, AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE REPORTS THAT A GROUP NAMED QUOTE ARM OF THE ARAB REVOLUTION UNQUOTE CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK.

2. WE HAVE JUST TALKED TO CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS AND INFORMATION SECTION (DR. MISSONG) WHO CONFIRMED THAT TERRORIST DEMANDS ARE AS FOLLOWS: PUBLIC READING OF TERRORIST STATEMENT; A BUS THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO THE AIRPORT; AND AN AIRPLANE THAT WILL TAKE THEM TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. MISSONG SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD COPY OF STATEMENT AND NOT MAKING IT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE RIGHT NOW. HE SAID GENERAL THRUST OF STATEMENT WAS CRITICISM OF RULING ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITH AN ANTI-ZIONIST TENOR. MISSONG SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HOPED CHANCELLOR KREISKY WOULD BE BACK IN TOWN BY 1800 HOURS LOCAL TIME AND THAT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, MINISTERS WOULD MEET TO DISCUSS SITUATION. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALL OPEC MEMBER COUNTRY EMBASSIES HERE.

3. COMMENT: SITUATION REMAINS VERY FLUID AND THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ON

PRECISELY HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE BEING HELD BY
TERRORISTS. AUSTRIAN POLICE ARE OUT IN FORCE
AND ENTIRE AREA AROUND AND NEAR OPEC BUILDING HAS
BEEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ALL TRAFFIC.
POLICE ARE GETTING READY FOR AN ALL NIGHT VIGIL AND
MILITARY COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ALERTED. WE UNDER-
STAND THAT TERRORIST STATEMENT WILL BE BROAD-
CAST BY AUSTRIAN RADIO SHORTLY. IF SO, TRANSLATION
WILL BE CABLED TO WASHINGTON AT ONCE BY FBIS.

4. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN LIST OF
PARTICIPANTS AT OPEC CONFERENCE. LIST WAS NOT
YET READY IN OPEC SECRETARIAT WHEN EMBASSY TRIED
TO OBTAIN IT YESTERDAY. WE HAVE JUST
HEARD ON AUSTRIAN RADIO THAT 60 TO 70 HOSTAGES
ARE IN BUILDING, INCLUDING 11 MINISTERS.MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA10581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750443-0707
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751222/aaaaaswv.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORIST ATTACK ON OPEC SITREP 2
TAGS: ASEC, AU, OPEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006